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THE CLASS OF



1996

2 NEWS

DEBATERS DOMINATE NATIONALLY

Brian Stults and Raja Gaddapati

In what was supposed to be a "growing year" for MBA Debate, the team surpassed all expectations by assembling a powerhouse squad. The sheer number of members on the team helped MBA to win major sweepstakes awards for overall performance. Additionally, as the novices won eleven of the thirteen tournaments they attended, MBA's varsity reputation skyrocketed to new heights across the country.

The quest for the top began with a trip to Wake Forest University in North Carolina. In the Varsity policy division, Michael Risen and Brian Stults reached the Octa-finals before losing to a particularly strong team from Virginia. In Junior Varsity, Nathan Sabel, Josh Hildreth, Rob Humbracht, and Robert Ross all competed in the elimination rounds. Additionally, in Lincoln-Douglas debate, both Deji Okedeji and Tyson Tune had excellent records in the preliminary rounds; as a result, Deji reached the Double-Octafinals and Tyson made it to the Octa-finals.

After a number of successes in Alabama tournaments, MBA then traveled to Calhoun, Georgia. While the policy JV team of Nathan Sabel and Josh Hildreth got to the Octa-finals, the highlight of the trip was Benjamin Purser's spectacular skill in Lincoln-Douglas debate which earned him first place overall as well as first speaker at the tournament. The same weekend, Michael Risen and Brian Stults traveled to the highly competitive Iowa Caucus tournament where they reached the Quarter-finals - losing on a split decision. Michael was named eighth speaker at this prestigious tournament.

After a lull in the schedule, MBA's entire team went to the Homewood tournament in Alabama. Success came to MBA in the Lincoln-Douglas divi-



Thomas Ross, William Fuson, Sean Cunningham, Jonathan Tam, and Phillip Reynolds relax at the Vestavia Tournament.



Jack Troutt, Rob Humbracht, Mark Yopp, Jonathan Greene, and Tyson Tune enjoy the shuttle ride from the Chicago airport to the Glennbrooks tournament.

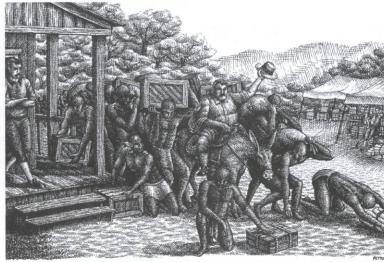
sion as Benjamin Purser was ranked first coming out of the preliminary rounds and eventually reached the Semi-finals, a major accomplishment considering the national draw of this division. In policy debate, virtually every team member received accolades for team and/or individual speaking performance. Novices Travis Swearingen and Samir Idnani took first place honors at the tournament while Phillip Reynolds and Jonathan Green reached the Semi-final round. MBA's policy varsity was successful as well; team members were involved in every round of elimination round competition.

The greatest awards would come a week later, however, when the team traveled to the Glenbrooks tournament in Chicago - where each division had more than 150 entries. Nathan Sabel received first speaker in JV policy competition and Benjamin Purser was named tenth speaker in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas. Benjamin also made it to octa-finals before losing to the eventual champion on a split decision. In an unprecedented showing, all three novice teams (consisting of Justin Miller, Robbie Quinn, Travis Swearingen, Samir Idnani, Jonathan Green, and Phillip Reynolds) tied for first place at the tournament Each of the teams remained undefeated throughout the course of the

MBA ART SHINES IN THE SPRING

The MBA Art Program has had a notable string of successes this spring. First, several students excelled in the National Scholastic Art Awards in New York City. Kenshin Ichikawa received a Hallmark award, the highest prize at the show, while Neeley Andrews and Thor Harland received gold medals. Chris Jackson and Charles Davidson earned honorable mentions for their works. The pieces of all five students will be displayed at the Corcoran Museum in Washington D.C., along with those of other national winners.

More recently, Belmont University invited MBA to participate in Belmont's first annual statewide High School Art Show. Thirty-five works from twenty-five MBA artists were displayed in Belmont's Leu Gallery, making up one-third of the show. Graphics by Clay Callison and Andrew Smaldone placed first and third, respectively. A painting by K.J. Schumacher was named Best of Show, while another painting by Paul Russell received second. In the drawing division, Joe Montgomery won third place, and Wilson Vorn Dick received an honorable



Mark Pettus made this ink work of a scene from Conrad's Heart of Darkness using a meticulous cross-hatching techniqu

DOMINATING DEBATERS

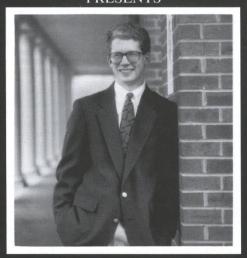
tournament, an unprecedented accomplishment in the history of this major, national tournament.

In the second semester, the first tournament was MBA's own Southern Bell Forum, a nationally recognized competition for both policy and Lincoln-Douglas debate. Hard work on the part of coaches and debaters made this venture successful once again. Additionally, Benjamin Purser - along with only twleve others in the nation - was invited to the L-D Round Robin at MBA on the basis of prior performance during the year.

Two weekends later, the team traveled to the University of Alabama where the varsity and novice teams won the tournament. At the Vestavia tournament, Brian Stults and Michael Risen won the policy debate division whereas Robert Ross and Jack Troutt reached the Octa-finals. In the novice policy division, Travis, Samir, Robbie, and Raja all closed out the final round in a tie

Several weekends later, the team competed in the Districts tournament, the qualifier for competition at the National Forensic League's Nationals tournament in June. This year, MBA qualified more people than ever before, including two policy debate teams, Lincoln-Douglas alternates, and participants in individual events. In April, Michael and Brian won second place in the Michigan Round Robin for Juniors, a tournament that invited the top seven all-junior teams from across the country. At the conclusion of the year, Brian, Nathan, and Benjamin were all invited to the Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky; this competition takes place every year and invites only the top teams from across the country to compete.

In summary, the MBA Debate team had a superb year. "I was excited by the team's performance, especially given the relative inexperience...," notes Coach Alan Coverstone. Coach Billy Tate concurs, adding that he expects nothing but improvement next year, especially considering the wide variety of programs available for debaters this summer. "Next year promises to be a banner year from top to bottom." In conclusion, much of MBA's success can be attributed to the fantastic coaching of Mr. Coverstone. His work ethic and commitment have been an inspiration to us all. As such, the entire team extends its thanks to him.



BENJAMIN PURSER IS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE BELL RINGER. HE HAS BEEN A

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Congratulations to the class of 1996.

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ANTIQUES LAURA AND MARTY SHUSTER

OPINIONS

College Movie Review

John "Big Red Dog" Lyell and Doug Kasselberg

During our tumultuous Senior year, we spent our second period study hall in the College Counseling office wondering what we could do. Since John would not let Doug do any schoolwork whatsoever, we picked up a new hobby (or "heinous task" as one of our fellows students labeled it): TO WATCH EV-ERY COLLEGE COUNSELING VIDEO AT MBA!! We laughed, suffered, cried, and mourned through each and every one of these 140 movies. During this 20-day adventure, Doug had to work on the yearbook (Flagg). Since Doug missed three days of video watching, John consistently berated him for his lack of "PRIDE" - threatening to drop him from the quest. Doug, eager to catch up, worked through extra study halls.

Now, we must invoke the muses on our journey. We viewed such 'amusing" colleges as Transylvania, Oral Roberts, Embry-Riddle, Green Mountain, Asbury, and Gettysburg. We recall such key parts as "join the 20th century boot camp" and singing a scarring rendition of "Walking in Memphis."

Our favorite movies are:

Colorado College: rollerblading "dude" was too cool for us Ole Miss: the best woman in the college videos resides here Ask her about her Departments

Babson: the most random movie with a huge globe to enlighten us UT-Martin: nothing better than a rodeo

UT-Chattanooga: Guaaahhh!

Washington University: "Dougie" Patrick gave it two thumbs up! Guilford College: Guilford was sooo scary that John screamed, "Turn this \$%*† off!"

The best video of the year was... Wofford College.

Thanks.

"Dougie" Patrick & "Johnny" Griffith your future College Counselors

ART

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE NO: "MBA ART SHINES IN THE SPRING".)

mention. Based on points given for first, second, and third places in the categories of painting and drawing, MBA took first place and received a trophy. Although competition will be stiffer in the future as more schools learn about the show, the Belmont show will be an annual event for MBA, according to Mrs. Paschall.

Nevertheless, no matter how great the prestige of regional and national awards, the overall quality of the MBA art program is far more important. According to Mrs. Paschall and Mr. Womack, the competitions are good for encouragement, but too much emphasis on recognition "just turns the work into numbers." Although the competitions recognize individual work and occasionally, such as at the Belmont show, award the school as a whole, artistic ability at MBA can be best observed with a close look at a wide variety of work from all of MBA's artists. The Spring Art Show, which opened on May 12 and ran through the end of the school year,

TENNIS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN; "TENNIS COMPETED FOR STATE.")

and a slightly disappointing finish in the prestigious Rotary Tournament, the Big Red returned to the home courts to host the Carter Invitational Tournament. This two day event proved to be a significant turning point in the team's season, as they defeated both McCallie and Baylor to capture the tournament title. Since this victory, the team has gained much momentum as they head to the Spring phenominal effort.

blemish on the Big Red's record came Fling in Chattanooga. The Big Red at the hands of St. Xavier of Louis- easily coasted through the team competition, earning a state birth by way After these two early defeats of a Sub-State victory over Beech, with a score of 5-0. On the individual side, four members of the Big Red are headed to Chattanooga: Region doubles champions Bill and Daniel McGugin, and Region doubles runnerup Jake Beesley and Brew Davis.

With renewed confidence, the team strove to capture its second consecutive State title. Unfortunately, they lost in Chattanooga despite a

FINAL THOUGHTS

Okay, folks, the end of the year has arrived (and with it my MBA career), so I thought I'd take this opportunity to reflect on the recent history of my soon-to-be alma mater, as well as to comment on its immediate future.

So where has MBA been? The school has certainly grown. The graduating class is only seventy-seven strong, while the freshman class has swelled to over a hundred and twenty. We've acquired a wonderful new building, with a new theater and a new lunch room (although the former looks like it will soon be, or already is, too small, and the latter was designed with everything but efficiency in mind), and most of the buildings have been renovated. We've also been in the rare position of seeing a changing of the guard, though for unfortunate reasons. We've seen many new faces appear (and in some cases disappear, among the ranks of the faculty) and with them we've received new course offerings. Overall, we have seen some pretty stupendous events during our stint at MBA.

As in any life, the good was inevitably accompanied by the bad. I need not dwell on it, but needless to say, we have seen our fair share of disaster: we have lost several members of our MBA family. Our senior class has seen, by some estimates, upwards of thirty students leave over the course of the last six years. This year, the senior class was seriously shafted, as we had to face what has been called the most difficult year for college admissions in history. We were also the first class to follow the new curriculum, the first to have the recentered SAT scores (I guess it's because we're dumber than previous classes), the first to have the "athletic fee" (yes, I know that "it was always there," but we were the first to have it "itemized" for us), the first to have to go to class after the APs, and the first ever to only have one National Merit semifinalist. But, hey, we made it through, so I guess it wasn't that bad.

So where is the school headed? I'm not sure. We've got several construction projects either underway or on the planning board, including a renovation to the library and a new science building (both badly needed). Our new administration is broadening the horizons of our school, so to speak, with emphasis on the arts program and on cultural diversity, areas in which we have made considerable strides over the last few years. With the new regulation of athletics (now that we're out of the TSSAA), the school will face some significant decisions, as we begin to bring in more athletes. The school will have to be sure to not sacrifice its academic standards in the name of athletics. Like the motto says, "Gentleman, Scholar," then "Athlete." As alluded to earlier, our little school is growing very quickly, and while there is currently no crisis, we could soon have one if this growth continues. There is certainly not room, at present, for six classes of well over a hundred people. One of MBA's greatest strengths is its small size, and I hope that the school is not too eager to give up that advantage. Of course, these are not problems now, and I believe that the administration should be able to avoid them with some simple common

Assuming that the school deals with these potential problems as it should, I believe that MBA will enjoy many more years of success, as I feel the last six have been for me.

Editor-in-Chief's Note:

This has definitely been a growing year for The Bell Ringer - with a "asssistant advisor," and various editors being continually unavailable, we've had more than our share of difficulties. I hope that this publication has none-the-less, kept you ostensibly informed and mildly entertained.

On a slightly different note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the man whose example drove me to push myself, whose skills revealed to me the power of language, and whose tragic death forced me to consider our own short lives and what we can do within that time. He affected so many people in such a positive way; I hope that one day I could do half as much as Dr. Douglas D. Paschall.

"Keep up the Good Work!"

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SUBTERRANEAN SLABS AND SOURCES

 $A dam\ Laughbaum$ I haven't been around these pages in quite some time...well, it's good to be back. I hope you'll take the time to peruse this column's offerings, if you like, as I've compiled several of my favorite audio and literary endeavours that I've come across as of late. All of the reviewees for this column are somewhat off-beat; these are sources most of you readers might not come across everyday in Tower or Davis-Kidd. Nevertheless, I feel that all of the following creations are certainly very worthwile artistic endeavours.

RECORDS:

Angel Hair 7" \$3 ppd. - Gravity Records: P.O. Box 81332, San Diego, CA 92138. This would have to be one of my favourite records of all time. All four of the songs on this hardcore forty-five are blistering, emotionallly-driven, and powerful. Somehow Angel Hair can capture both harsh-intensity and orchestral beauty at the very same time. I'm really not quite sure if the members of Angel Hair are even human: the atmosphere found in the recording and in the packaging capture this feeling of perhaps an eerie psychosis, without ever venturing into the marketably cheesy realm; it is strikingly real. Angel Hair has an additional release, Insect Mortality, on Gravity.

Araby 7" \$3 ppd. - Red Dawg Records: 300 N. Bryan, Bloomington, IN 47408. This is extremely well-crafted, mid-tempo, serious pop-punk from Illinois. Araby has this wonderful way of eliciting emotions that are both sentimental and forward-looking. Araby's song structure, though beautifully melodic is supported by a strong, driving backbone. Quite a record; good to listen to just about anytime.

Christie Front Drive 7" \$2 ppd -Freewill Records: P.O. Box 18015, Denver, CO 80218-0015. This band is in a very similar class with Araby: both bands are making some really beautiful, well-crafted, lyrically-sound music these days. Christie Front Drive's sound can be like speeding eighty-nine miles an hour on a wide-open, western highway, blurred vistas and technicolor images always seem to come into my mind everytime I hear any of Christie Front Drive's fine recordings. In addition to this release, they have the Sineater 7" on Hellkite and a 12" on Freewill.

Harriet the Spy "Circle @ Indicator" 7" \$3 ppd. - Donut Friends Records:1030 Jessie Ave., Kent, OH 44240. First of all, Harriet the Spy's packaging is unparalleled: with a band composed of four art students, one of whom works at Kinko's, the record is worth purchasing based on its aesthetic value alone; it's just brimming with all sorts of inserts, graphic design layouts, and photos. Harriet the Spy, I believe, stands in a musical genre all its own: sometimes speedy, sometimes slow, always jazzy, borderline chaotic, and fun; besides the fact that you can dance to it; in short, a horrid sonic indecipherability/ stress-related sensory hallucination, as they put it themselves. I had the chance to hang out with these gus when they stayed at my friend's house a few months back; they are really great guys, and they are doing things that no one else is doing - check them out. They have a split 7" with Bisybackson in addition to this relaease, as well as a 10" on Double Agent Records (of Franklin, TN) scheduled for release in a month.

Jihad "God's Forsaken People 7" \$3 ppd. - Schema Records: P.O. Box 1161, Battle Creek, MI 49016-1161. Not many people can create emotional-hardcore canvases in the manner that Jihad does. Jihad captures pure emotion, energy, and rage in a truly moving product. Rage Against the Machine, Marilyn Manson, and the rest of those n'er-dowell whiners pale in thier attempts at expressing rage and dissatisfaction with the gongs-on around them. Jihad tackles the crux issues of problematic inter-personal relationships within the swirling melange of well-thought-out lyrics.

Second Story Window 7" \$3 ppd. - Gravity Records: P.O. Box 81332, San Diego, CA 92138. This is a really great record, but for some reason, I just can't seem to find it right now. Just trust me MAGAZINES:

Cometbus #36, \$2.50/1; \$4.00/2 ppd. - BBT: P.O. Box 4279, Berkley, CA 94704. Aaron Cometbus, the creator of this masterpiece, is a fanzine god. Aaron produces one of the most well-crafted underground periodicals existing. What he does, essentially, is this: he lives an incredible, adventurous life meeting people, falling in and out of love, travelling, noticing and appreciating the wonderful, little things in life, and he has the goodness and decency to write these experiences down and distribute them, so the rest of the world can have a little bit of his great life as well. His writing style is very accessible, very basic, and very real. Anyone who loves a good story and a nice escape can dig Cometbus. Ride the Wohl Whip!

These are other magazines, that, for the sake of time and space, I could not review. Please check them out, all three are very good publications filled with good writing and articles that I hope you will find fascinating, should you choose to explore them.

Profane Existance #25, \$2 - Profane Existane Collective: P.O. Box 8722, Minneapolis, MN 55408 Snot-Face #1, \$1 ppd. - Snot-Face: 780 N. Belvedere, Memphis, TN 38107.

POINTmAN vol. XXI., \$1.50 ppd. - POINTmAN: P.O. Box 88902, Carol Stream, IL 60188-0902

Well, that's all for this edition of Subterranean Slabs and Sources. I really hope that you will obtain a copy of a couple of these things, it would be worth your while to peruse them, because I will burn your house down if you do not. So long.

THE TOP TWENTY Movies

Bean Tidwell

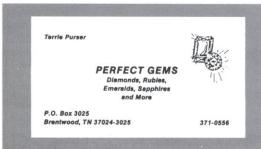
Many movies have boomed and busted since the first of our class arrived on the hill. I have reviewed most of them. Our impending departure caused me to ponder over these various and sundry flics - which have been the best? (Well, actually Ben just told me to write this article.)

I have, therefore, compiled a list of the top twenty movies released in the past six years. They are not in any certain order; they are all excellent. Without further ado, I present The Bell Ringer's Top Twenty Movies of our high school career:

Pulp Fiction Dead Man Walking Clerks Malcolm X Schindler's List Jurrasic Park Tombstone Father of the Bride Philadelphia Leaving Las Vegas Interview with a Vampire* Wallace and Gromitt: The Wrong Trousers* Braveheart Shawshank Redemption Aladdin* The Usual Suspects **Ouiz Show** The Fugitive Brahm Stoker's Dracula Forrest Gump

If there are some on here that you haven't heard of, go watch them. Now. Anyway, it's been a fun ride. guys. Goodbye and good luck. May the Force be with you

[Editor's note: We make no claim to the quality of the movies with an asterisk (*) beside them: we would replace those flics with the following: Silence of the Lambs, Terminator II, Heat, and Showgirls.]





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